

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 6-13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Previously submitted): A process for forming a tube-shaped hollow body, the process comprising:

shaping a slab-shaped semifinished product into a closed cross-sectional profile;

welding opposing edges of the semifinished product to produce the hollow body;

mechanically partially expanding the hollow body thereby changing the cross-

sectional area of the hollow body;

soft annealing the hollow body after the mechanically partially expanding; and

hydroforming the hollow body after the soft annealing.

Claim 15 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 14 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.

Claim 16 (Previously Submitted). The process of claim 14 further comprising soft annealing the hollow body before the mechanically partially expanding.

Claim 17 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 16 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing after the mechanically partially expanding are performed multiple times in sequence.

Claim 17 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 16 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing after the mechanically partially expanding are performed multiple times in sequence.

Claim 18 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 14 wherein when the hollow body has an initial cross-section and a cross-section after hydroforming, the mechanically partially expanding comprises expanding a portion of the hollow body in which the largest change between the initial cross section and the cross-section after hydroforming is to occur.

Claim 19 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 18 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.

Claim 20 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 14 further comprising applying further processing to the hollow body; wherein:
when the applying comprises mechanical bending or mechanical shaping, the further processing is performed between the soft annealing and the hydroforming.

Claim 21 (Previously Submitted): The process of claim 20 wherein the mechanically partially expanding and the soft annealing are performed multiple times in sequence.